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USSR: Moscow may try to revive interest in a treaty banning underground nuclear tests when the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Conference (ENDC) resumes next month.

Moscow's insistence, however, that national means of detection are sufficient to assure compliance with such a ban.

In what they described as an effort to overcome US objections, the Soviets did offer support for two schemes for policing an underground test ban. One, first brought before the ENDC in 1965 and endorsed by Moscow at that time, would ban tests above a threshold of 4.75 on the Richter scale and include a voluntary moratorium on smaller tests. The other, based on an earlier Swedish proposal, would establish a "detection club" to assure compliance, although member states would furnish information to the club on a "voluntary and bilateral" basis. The Soviets said they had tried this on the Swedes, who agreed to it.

Neither of these suggestions shows any great forward movement in the Soviet position, but Moscow may hope to derive some political benefits by raising the subject in bilateral contacts now and then later at the ENDC. The Soviets probably expect that even the prospect of movement on disarmament by the nuclear powers will give impetus to the ratification of the nonproliferation treaty (NPT).

Nevertheless, Moscow probably also expects that since neither of its proposals makes clear provisions for inspection, the US will oppose them and thus bear the onus of appearing to block progress on disarmament.

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NOTES

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【 Guatemala: A faction of the Cuban-oriented Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) may attack US nationals or property today, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The guerrillas have been inactive for the past several months, and the contemplated operation probably is designed to demonstrate that the guerrillas retain their capability for mounting terrorist attacks. [REDACTED]

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